

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5405

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EEC, UK

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT - BRITISH VIEWS

1. WE RAISED PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT WITH OLIVER WRIGHT (DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, IN CHARGE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MATTERS AND BRITISH POLITICAL DIRECTOR) IN COURSE OF A MEETING ON OTHER MATTERS NOVEMBER 4.

2. WRIGHT SUMMARIZED PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT AS FOLLOWS. INVITATIONS HAD BEEN SENT OUT BY THE FRENCH
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BUT NOT ALL MEMBERS HAVE REPLIED. WRIGHT THOUGHT THE

MOST PROBABLE DATE WAS DECEMBER 9 OR 10, PERHAPS BOTH DAYS. THE SUMMIT IS BEING PREPARED BY TWO AD HOC GROUPS, ONE OF WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY THE COREPER IN BRUSSELS, AND ANOTHER WHICH IS ESSENTIALLY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN PARIS. ON OCCASION, A MEMBER OF COREPER JOINS THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN PARIS, BUT THE REVERSE HAD NOT YET HAPPENED.

3. WRIGHT SAID THE WORK IS NOT VERY FAR ADVANCED. A PRELIMINARY REPORT WILL BE SENT TO MINISTERS WHEN THEY MEET NOVEMBER 11 TO CONSIDER PREPARATIONS FOR THE SUMMIT. MOST OF THE REPORT NOW CONSISTS OF "SQUARE BRACKETS" REFLECTING BASIC DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN THE SMALLER COUNTRIES, LED BY THE DUTCH, AND THE LARGER COUNTRIES OF WHICH THE U.K. IS ONE. IN GENERAL, THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SUMMIT TO STRENGTHEN EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS, WHILE THE LARGER COUNTRIES ARE FOR CONCENTRATING ON A DISCUSSION IN DEPTH OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS FACING THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD SO THAT EC GOVERNMENTS MAY SEEK SOLUTIONS TO THEIR OWN PROBLEMS WITH A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEMS FACING THEIR COMMUNITY PARTNERS. THE SMALLER COUNTRIES WISH THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THESE MATTERS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. THE LARGER COUNTRIES RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THESE PROBLEMS AND THE IM- POSSIBILITY OF EARLY DECISIONS. WITH REGARD TO INSTITUTIONS, THE SMALLER COUNTRIES ADVOCATE MAJORITY VOTING AND DIRECT ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHILE THE LARGER COUNTRIES WOULD PREFER TO REACH GENERAL AGREEMENT FIRST ON WHAT THE COMMUNITY CAN DO AND THEN ENSURE THAT THE COMMUNITY MACHINERY IS ADEQUATE TO THE JOB.

4. WRIGHT ADMITTED THAT ONE OF THE PROBLEMS WAS FRENCH DESIRE FOR A "SUCCESSFUL MEETING" AND HOW "SUCCESS" SHOULD BE DEFINED.

5. WRIGHT EXPECTS BRITISH RENEGOTIATION OF TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE SUMMIT BUT HE BELIEVES IT VERY POSSIBLE THAT THE BUDGETARY
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ISSUE MAY BE SETTLED IN PRINCIPLE BY THE TWO COUNCILS OF MINISTERS WHICH WILL HAVE PRECEDED IT IF IT TAKES PLACE ON DECEMBER 9 OR 10.

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